ETC
Education Telecommunications Council

**EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL
NOTES
December 16, 2010**

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The December 16, 2010, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was held at Iowa Public Television and various ICN sites. The following members were present at the meeting: **Kenneth Colwell**, IAICU; **Michael Healy**, SAI; **Kent Johnson**, Regents; **Ellen Kabat-Lensch**, IACCT; **Tom Kruse**, IAICU; **Carol Montz**, SAI; **Kathryn O'Shaughnessy**, ISEA**; Terry Rinehart**, IPTV; and **Gail Sullivan**, DE. **Kay Runge**, DE/Libraries participated via telephone. **Mary Gannon**, IASB; **Sally Lindgren**, AEA Boards; **Jan Lund**, IACCT; **Chet Rzonca**, Regents; and **Mary Wieser**, DE/CIANS were absent.

The following guests were also present at the meeting: **Joseph Cassis, Julie Johnson,** and **Tami Fujinaka**, ICN; **Vic Jaras**, Iowa Dept of Education; **Theresa Ziegler**, RTC 3 Coordinator; **Kathy Goebel**, Region 5 Scheduler; **Julie Thomas**, RTC 6 Coordinator and **Jeff Smith**, RTC 6; **Dawn Fratzke**, Region 7 Coordinator/Scheduler; **Joe Coon**, RTC 9; **Jan Robertson,** Region 10 Coordinator/Scheduler; **Dick Stufflebeem,** RTC 11; **Linda Abel**, RTC 15 Chair; and **Deb Fiscus**, IPTV.

Membership changes since the June meeting include the resignations of Jean Torgeson, IACCT, and Frank Wood, SAI. IACCT has appointed Jan Lund who is retired from ILCC in Estherville, and SAI has appointed Michael Healy, superintendent at Bellevue CSD. There still remains a vacancy for ISEA to replace Al Bode who resigned in June 2009, and IASB to replace Greg Davis who resigned in August 2010.

II. ISSUES and UPDATES
II.A.1.   BTOP Grant

Joseph Cassis provided an update on the BTOP (*Broadband Technology Opportunity)* grant. The ICN received a $16.3 million dollar federal grant that will be used to enhance the network and extend out to the endpoints approximately 1 gig and the core to be approximately 10 gig, providing not only the infrastructure that is necessary for the future, but also the bandwidth necessary for education and other authorized users like Homeland Security, the Department of Public Safety and also the hospitals, (in collaboration with Iowa Health Systems who received a $17.2 million dollar federal BTOP grant to connect 14 other hospitals).

One of the milestones that has to be accomplished by December 30, 2010, is an environmental assessment (for any place where the ICN has disturbed the ground/environment) which will put 3 sites in compliance with state and federal regulations—Lamoni, Decorah, and Sac & Fox Tribe in Tama. A draft assessment was submitted on November 30, 2010, and comments have been received. The ICN cannot draw any funds until that assessment has been reviewed and a FONSI (findings of no significant impact) has been issued. Once that is received, they can begin project implementation. The ICN received a compliment from the Federal Government stating that the ICN is a great example of exemplary efforts being made on the behalf of Iowa citizens.

Joseph also distributed a booklet called "Iowa Communications Network Summary Snapshot" and informed the group that it can be found online at http://www.icn.state.ia.us/. It is an assessment of services, milestones, and accomplishments that have been made by the ICN.

II.A.2.   Broadband Deployment Governance Board
The Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board was established nearly 2 years ago by the legislators to augment the efforts of any project within Iowa. Because there is a 30% match that must be met in order to receive BTOP federal government grants, state funding of $25 million dollars was to be set aside to enable these types of telecommunication infrastructure projects to be pursued as well as sustainable adoption projects to be made. Unfortunately, the allocation of this funding was struck in the last session. Progress was made in the sense that there was a great collaborative spirit in identifying what would be necessary for a robust infrastructure. The Board is still meeting and will prepare a broadband plan for the State of Iowa. This is a collaborative public-private partnership throughout the industry putting the plan together and not as the State of Iowa government. They would be using Connect Iowa, a non-profit organization that created an interactive map that can be accessed to see what the bandwidth rate is right down to the street level, which will aid in determining those unserved/underserved areas. The National Broadband Plan has been released in portions, but the culmination of all the states is due February 2011.

II.A.3.   Legislative Update
Terry Rinehart gave a brief history of the ICN explaining that IPTV and the Dept of General Services had the responsibility of building the ICN. Shortly after that the ICN itself was created along with the ITTC. Over a period of time, IPTV has been turning over various responsibilities related to the ICN to the ICN itself. For example, the scheduling of the video classroom responsibility was turned over to the ICN in 1998. About 5 years ago, classroom maintenance engineers that were employed by IPTV were moved over to the ICN. Last year, the work order function was transferred to the ICN. The next step is to move the RTC appropriation funding and its support activity over to the ICN. They will be responsible for the distribution of that money to the RTCs.

Joseph Cassis stated that this is a continuance of the migration process and it will provide more of a synergistic approach to resolving troubleshooting and other kinds of situations out in the field. The ICN feels that there is an opportunity for an enhanced approach to support

the RTC and potentially provide a way to replace the equipment as well as reduce the amount of troubleshooting and problems that are occurring out in the field. The IPTV board unanimously approved the decision on December 9th and legislative action is not required to make the move. Appropriate people at legislative services will be informed so that the RTC funding appropriation can be directed to the ICN. This will not be effective until FY2012 since the funding for FY11 is already in process. The ICN will review the processes that are in place and see how they can enhance the allocation methodology as well as how they can have more effective response levels in providing that support out in the field.

Tami Fujinaka stated that the ICN will have one appropriation request for an on-going equipment request that helps to fund the local telephone system for the Capitol Complex and a second appropriation request for the internet protocol technology equipment that helps to complement the BTOP project and provide Ethernet capabilities. This appropriation allows schools and libraries to receive Universal Services discounts for the telecommunication services they receive.

II.A.4.   Video Over IP Project
Joseph Cassis stated that a BETA test went very well. The technology worked well with both the broadcast and IP capabilities and is ready for a roll out to occur sometime in January-February timeframe. This will provide a number of new features, from scheduling to other capabilities that do not exist today. Julie Johnson informed members about enhancements to the VOSS system concerning no-transmits. For more information about the video over IP project, as well as other ICN initiatives, visit the ICN website at http://www.icn.state.ia.us/.

II.B.   2010 Legislative Session
The appropriation request for RTC funding, as well as for IPTV, was status quo for FY2012. There was no other discussion concerning the 2011 legislative session.

II.C.   ETC/RTC Membership
There are two vacancies on the ETC—one each for ISEA and IASB, and several alternate positions that are vacant, and many vacancies on the RTCs. It was stated that ETC members should work with their appointing agency to help them understand the importance of filling the vacancies. A suggestion was also made that appointing agencies work with the RTC coordinator to identify potential individuals to be selected for appointment.

II.D.   Dept of Education Educational Technology Initiatives
Vic Jaras of the Dept of Education provided an update on department activities and the statewide technology effort and distributed information about the Ed Tech ARRA Grant. From this presentation we learned that the $3,344,836 grant has brought together all of the AEAs and 7 of the 8 UEN LEA's to work on one project to lay a foundation for online learning. The goals of the grant are to:
1. Provide online content that is available across Iowa in the event of pandemics, disasters or district need;
2. Develop teacher capacity to use online content, and to create lessons, units and courses online;
3. Create a state-wide repository (clearinghouse) of online content to support Iowa schools in their efforts to deliver and eventually develop virtual learning opportunities for

students that extend beyond the classroom to provide equity and diversity of curriculum for all.

For more information about the Ed Tech ARRA grant or other DE educational technology initiatives, please contact Vic Jaras at vic.jaras@iowa.gov.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The December 16, 2010, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the ETC is Thursday, June 2, 2011, at Iowa Public Television.